

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS, KS, KN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

REF: SEOUL 4982

1. SUMMARY: FOL IS TEXT OF PORTIONS OF PRESS RELEASE
BY AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. END SUMMARY

2. AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SENATOR D. R.
WILLESSEE, ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT IN CANBERRA JULY 31
ANNOUNCNG ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
NORTH KOREA. KEY PASSAGES OF RATHER LONG PRESS STATE-
MENT (TEXT BEING POUCHED TO DEPT AND TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL)
AS FOLLOWS:

QTE THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SENATOR DON WILLESEE,
ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT AUSTRALIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) HAD AGREED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE AGREEMENT WAS SET OUT IN A
JOINT COMMUNIQUE, SIGNED AT 3:00 P.M. CANBERRA TIME IN
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JAKARTA. THE ENGLISH AND KOREAN TEXTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE

WERE SIGNED ON BEHALF OF AUSTRALIA BY MR. R.W. FURLONGER, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA, AND ON BEHALF OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA BY MR LI JANG HWA, THE DPRK AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA. THE ENGLISH TEXT OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE INNER QTE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, IN ORDER TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY AND CO-OPERATION RELATIONS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT, AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. END INNER QTE

QTE SENATOR WILLESEE ADDED THAT THE DPRK INTENDED TO APPOINT A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA. IT WAS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO APPOINT INITIALLY A NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO THE DPRK, DUALY ACCREDITED FROM ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN POST IN ASIA.

QTE SENATOR WILLESEE SAID THAT OF COURSE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE DPRK DID NOT MEAN THAT AUSTRALIA WAS THEREBY DOWNGRADING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ROK. AUSTRALIA HAD MADE IT CLEAR, BOTH TO THE ROK AND TO THE DPRK, THAT WE WERE NOT ACTING OUT OF UNFRIENDLINESS TOWARDS THE ROK OR WITH A DESIRE TO SUBSTITUTE RELATIONS WITH THE DPRK FOR THOSE SO LONG ESTABLISHED WITH THE ROK. WE HAD ALSO MADE IT CLEAR TO BOTH THAT OUR RECOGNITION OF THE DPRK DID NOT IMPLY AUTOMATIC SUPPORT FOR ITS POLICIES, AND IN NO WAY IMPAIRED OUR RECOGNITION OF THE ROK AS A SOVEREIGN STATE WITH AN ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT - WITH ALL THAT THAT POSITION IMPLIED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. END QTE.
HARROP

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